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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Virginia Historical Society

AT ITS

ANNUAL MEETING

HELD IN THE

Y. M. C. A. HALL, JANUARY 4th, 1906,

WITH THE

LIST OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY.

RICHMOND:
WM. ELLIS JONES, BOOK AND JOB PRINTER.
1906.

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
Virginia Historical Society
IN
Annual Meeting held January 4, 1906.

The annual meeting was held in the Young Men's Christian Association Hall—a large audience being present.

President W. Gordon McCabe called the meeting to order at 8.15 P. M., and stated that in order to expedite business, unless there was objection, he would appoint a Nominating Committee, who would be asked to retire in consultation at once, and to report after the address of the evening.

He appointed as members of this committee, Messrs. Robert B. Munford, Jr., Wm. Ellis Jones and W. Clayton Torrence.

The President then read the annual report.

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

To the Members of the Virginia Historical Society:

I have the honor to submit the following report, giving in detail the work of the Society and presenting a precise statement of its condition as to its finances, membership and property for the year ending November 12th, 1905—which report has been carefully examined, verified and unanimously approved by your Executive Committee.

MEMBERSHIP.

During the current year, the increase in membership has been most gratifying, our rolls showing 753 members as against 729 at the time of the last annual report. The usual average of accessions to membership (from 60 to 65) has been more than maintained, while our losses through resignation, death and dropping for persistent non-payment of dues have fallen from 66 to 47.

This encouraging result amply vindicates the drastic action taken by your Executive Committee last year in purging the rolls of such delinquents as persisted after repeated warnings in ignoring the courteous reminders of indebtedness sent them by the Secretary.

But while the great majority of our members have paid their dues with commendable promptness, there are still some who, through culpable carelessness or lack of a becoming sense of obligation, remain deaf to all appeals.

The Society, as was pointed out in the last report, is almost entirely dependent for support upon the annual dues of its members, its expenses for maintaining the Society House, for publication, salaries, etc., necessarily heavy, yet these delinquents, knowing all this, go on complacently receiving the valuable publications of the Society, which, they must be quite aware, are being paid for by their more conscientious fellow-members.

The Executive Committee has therefore decided to give these few delinquents until the 15th of January, 1906, to pay up their dues, and in the event of their failure to do so to drop them from the rolls.

Members can, of course, resign at any time, but they must bear in mind that dues run up to the date of resignation. Such is the invariable rule in all reputable societies of a kindred nature. It may be pertinent to mention here, as indicative of the constantly increasing interest felt in the aims and purposes of the Society, that of our new members twenty-two sent in their applications during the last two months.

It is the pleasing duty of your Committee to state that the finances of the Society are in a thoroughly sound and satis-

factory condition, as will be seen from the subjoined report of our accurate and zealous Treasurer.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Balance on hand November 12, 1904..... \$ 264 48

RECEIPTS.

Annual dues.....	\$3,052 28	
Life members.....	100 00	
Magazines (sales).....	197 28	
Publications (sales).....	79 10	
Interest.....	228 00	
Advertisements (in Magazine).....	112 25	
Gift of Byam K. Stevens, Esq.....	50 00	
Miscellaneous sources.....	12 00	
		<u>3,830 91</u>
		4,095 39

EXPENDITURES

General expenses.....	\$360 45	
Stationery, binding, and new books.....	55 45	
Postage—express and stamps.....	94 72	
Insurance.....	60 00	
Printing Magazine, etc.....	1,035 10	
Salaries.....	1,650 00	
Wages.....	240 00	
Permanent fund.....	455 60	
		<u>3,951 32</u>
Balance in bank November 11, 1905.....	\$ 144 07	

The Treasurer holds, in addition, on account of the "Permanent Fund" 3% bank certificate.....	455 60
Virginia 3% Century bond.....	100 00
Mortgage, running 3 years at 5% from May 4, 1904.....	4,500 00
	<u>\$5,055 60</u>

It is gratifying to note that our "Permanent Fund" has now passed the \$5,000 mark, and worthy of mention that with the exception of \$50, given this year by our staunch and generous friend, Byam K. Stevens, Esq., of New York, and of \$100 given several years ago by the "Daughters of the American Revolution," no part of our endowment has been derived from donations. The interest from this "Permanent Fund" is used for the current expenses of the Society.

The receipts for the current year, as will be seen on comparing the above statement with that last submitted, have been less than in 1904. This has been due in chief measure to the unusually large loss of members from death in 1904, the effects of which show, for the first time, in decreased annual dues of this Report. Another reason is to be found in the fact that during a limited period of the last year your Committee, with the view of adding to the "Permanent Fund," offered special inducements to secure "Life Members." In accordance with the "bye-laws" of the Society, all fees from Life Membership are turned over to the "Permanent Fund," and thus this Fund was increased by these fees several hundred dollars above the normal, which correspondingly swelled the receipts for 1904. The difference in receipts between this year and last is however materially counter-balanced by the decrease in expenditures, our disbursements for 1905 being \$267.42 less than in 1904.

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

The acquisitions made by the Library during the year consist of 1,173 books and pamphlets. Among the donors of books and objects of historical interest, to whom the Society owes grateful acknowledgement, may be mentioned: Messrs Philip L. Schuyler, Chas. H. Hart, Dunbar Rowland, C. Ellis Stevens, Prof. J. A. C. Chandler, Maryus Jones, Edward Wilson James, Howard R. Bayne, William Wallace Tooker, Byam K. Stevens, John Cropper, Ro. B. Munford, Jr., Heth Lorton, W. R. Gerard, W. G. Stanard, John F. Mayer, Burrows Bros. Co., Hon. Armstead C. Gordon, Judge W. J. Leake, Lt. Col. Jno. P. Nicholson, Maj. General Wm. Birney, Mrs Julia M. Pratt, Mrs. Margaret E. Crenshaw, Mrs. C. Hodges, (*née* Crenshaw), Mrs. Frank W. Chamberlayne, Mrs. Phillips, Mrs J. B. Newton, Mrs. J. Jackson, Mrs. James Pleasants, Miss Minnie Baughman and Miss Grace V. Bicknell.

Of special interest and value have been the donations of Mrs. James Pleasants and Mr. Ro. B. Munford, Jr., both of Richmond, of Edward Wilson James, Esq., of Norfolk, and of Mrs. Margaret C. Hodges of Germantown, Penn.

Mrs. Pleasants has given us a very large number of the older English and American Magazines and Reviews, thus enab-

ling us in several instances to complete our sets; and has also donated an almost complete set of Skinner's rare "American Turf Register," besides many other interesting books and pamphlets.

Messrs. James and Munford have also given substantial proof of their keen interest in the Society by donations of valuable books, while Mrs. Hooges has given us (through Mr. C. A. Robinson) two bound volumes of the very rare "Richmond Argus" (newspaper) for 1809 and 1810.

As during the preceding year, the work of arranging collecting and binding our pamphlets and collection of serial publications issued by various historical, antiquarian and genealogical societies, has gone steadily forward, and complete sets of these, arranged in order in a separate room of the Society House and thus easily accessible, now constitute a collection of documents of the highest moment to historical students and antiquarians. In addition to the bound volumes of this collection, we have 97 binding-cases containing pamphlets which have been deemed worthy of preservation.

The Library has been open to members and visitors from 9 A. M. to 5 P. M. every day throughout the year (save on Sundays and legal holidays), and has been used by a large number of readers and students, who are always welcomed heartily to the Society House by our courteous Secretary and his assistant.

During the past year, our expert copyist, having finished the transcripts of the somewhat confused "Executive Journals" of the Colonial Councils from 1738 to 1763, and having arranged them chronologically for future publication, has made substantial progress in transcribing five Revolutionary "Order Books," belonging to our MS collection. These "Order Books," often in the handwriting of illiterate "Orderly Sergeants," have been in many cases most difficult to decipher, but our copyist is an expert and the work is being done in very satisfactory and intelligent fashion.

It is pertinent, just here, to make mention of the auspicious beginning of the publication of the "Journals of the House of Burgesses," under the direction of the State Library Board. The volume for 1773-75 has been issued under the editorship of

John P. Kennedy, Esq., State Librarian, and is not only most attractive to the bibliophile as a beautiful piece of book-making, but reflects the highest credit on its editor for the taste, learning and discretion displayed in the annotations.

The hope expressed in the last annual report that the "Minutes of the General Court and Council of Virginia, 1623-1632," as well as the many valuable unpublished letters and proclamations of that period relating to Virginia, now in the Congressional Library at Washington, might soon be issued by the Government in book form, is, we are glad to say, destined to be speedily realized.

"The Minutes of the London Company" will appear first, to be followed soon by the priceless documents named above, supplemented by contemporaneous records taken from English sources.

Your Committee begs again to call the attention of the members of the Society and of our Senators and Representatives in Congress to the bill which will be offered at this session of the national legislature, providing for the establishment of a "United States Record Commission," similar to the commissions long established in England, France and other European countries, having for its aim the systematic investigation of foreign and state archives and cognate records dealing with the early exploration, colonization and subsequent development of our country—these investigations to be ultimately published by the Government in such shape as to be easily accessible to historical students. The importance of such a commission was dwelt upon in our last annual report and is too obvious to need further argument.

GIFTS AND LOANS.

Among gifts and loans, other than those of books and pamphlets, the following are worthy of special mention :

Mrs. Frank W. Chamberlayne, of Richmond, has made a loan of the oil portrait of William Dandridge. It cannot, at present, be definitively stated whether the portrait is that of Captain William Dandridge, R. N., or of his son, who bore the same name, but the probabilities are that it is of the former. The same lady has also loaned the Society a handsome sword,

bearing on its blade the date "April, 1738." This sword was presented to Captain William Dandridge by His Grace, John, Duke of Montague, who was First Lord of the Admiralty at the time that William Dandridge was a Captain in the Royal Navy.

One of the greatest attractions of the Society House is the large collection of original portraits of the Bolling family, kindly loaned by Richard Bolling, Esq., of this city. To this collection, the same public-spirited gentleman has this year added the portrait in oils of Elizabeth Bolling, wife of William Gay, Esq.

Our sister organization, the Wisconsin Historical Society, has generously sent us two large sets of photographs of the Virginia Senate, and House of Delegates of the Session of 1857-58. These are of much greater moment than may appear at first sight, for among them are the "presentments," not extant elsewhere, of not a few of the chief actors in the great drama of the War between the States.

Judge W. J. Leake has given the Society two MS books of decidedly unique value, one—the memorandum-book of Duncan Rose, merchant in Petersburg, Virginia, 1770-71, giving the prices of all sorts of commodities—the other, the diary of a peddler, who journeyed on foot through Virginia in 1807 and 1808.

Mrs. Phillips sends us as a loan a most interesting relic—a certificate as to good character and reputable standing, given to Antoine Trabue, ancestor of a well-known Huguenot family of that name in this State, by Jean Combe, his pastor at Montauban, France, in 1688.

It is not improbable that many such certificates were given by French pastors to members of their flocks about to emigrate after the "Revocation" in 1685, but, so far as we know, this is the only one extant—at least in this State.

Noteworthy also are the gifts of a photograph of "Eastern Shore Chapel," Princess Anne Co., Virginia, (built 1754), from Edward Wilson James, Esq., a member of this Committee—of two clay roofing-tiles of colonial date and make, taken from the ruins of "Warner Hall," in Gloucester, and presented by A. C. Withers, Esq., of that county through St. George T. C. Bryan, Sr., Esq.; of a cannon-ball from a Revolutionary battle-field, given by Mrs. Julia Snead of Fork Union, Virginia; of a very

quaint round travelling-trunk of about the year 1800, from William L. Sheppard, Esq.; of a photograph of Hayes-Barton, Devon, England, birth place of Sir Walter Raleigh, from William G. Stanard, Esq.; of a framed collection of photographs of Brington church, Northamptonshire, England, of the Washington tombs in the church (with copies of the epitaphs), and of the Washington house at Brington, the gift of Miss Katherine Stiles; of a large number of Confederate treasury-notes of various denominations from Capt. Jno. F. Mayer, who has also given a large contemporary lithograph of "Libby Prison" during the war; of several interesting MSS from Robert B. Munford, Jr., Esq.; of an engraved portrait of "James," a negro, who for loyal services during the Revolution was given his freedom by the State of Virginia. Accompanying this engraving is a *fac-simile* of General Lafayette's certificate as to the high character of the colored patriot—both of them the gift of Mrs. J. Jackson of Macon, Georgia; of a photograph of the original portrait of George Sandys at Omsbersley Court, England, presented by Messrs. Burrows Brothers of Cleveland, Ohio; and of several articles of minor historical interest donated by George A. Barksdale, Esq., Dr. J. L. Miller and others.

To all of these generous patrons, the Society desires to make its most grateful acknowledgments.

It may be stated here that the collection of portraits, prints and photographs and the cabinets of relics in the Society House have been, as heretofore, constantly drawn upon by artists engaged in illustrating historical works.

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE.

The Magazine has steadily adhered to its settled policy of printing only original "first-hand" documents. In the very rare cases where deviation has been made, it has been done for some reason, that, after careful consideration, has been deemed of sufficient weight to warrant the exception. As many of you are aware, this purpose, to publish only original material bearing on the history of Virginia, has characterized the conduct of the Society from its establishment more than seventy years ago, and has given to its publications a value that has amply vindicated the course pursued.

Some of its earlier work consisted in having hitherto unpublished documents printed in the pages of the "Southern Literary Messenger," at that time one of the most conspicuous magazines in our periodical literature. Then followed from 1848 to 1853 (inclusive) its own publication, *The Virginia Historical Register*, edited with marked ability by that scholarly antiquarian, William Maxwell, Esq., and made up in chief measure of original colonial papers. These six volumes of the *Register* are now regarded as of "first-hand" authority and importance, as many of the originals of the documents printed have been lost or destroyed by fire. From 1854 to 1860, at intervals, appeared, as successor to the *Register*, the *Virginia Reporter*, which comprises among much matter of prime moment, Grigsby's *Virginia Convention of 1829-30*. Of course, nothing was done during the four years of war, nor for some years after, owing to the poverty of our people. But from 1882 to 1892 the Society published eleven volumes of its *Collections*, which compelled the attention of historical students at home and abroad, and confirmed the Society's place in the first rank of kindred organizations.

Since that time, our Magazine, which has printed nearly 4,000 pages of hitherto unpublished historical documents, has worthily carried out, under the able editorship of our Secretary, the purposes of the founders of the Society, and to-day we may claim, without undue immodesty, ranks with the foremost periodicals of its kind either at home or abroad.

The conclusive proof of the value of the documentary matter thus published is found in the significant fact, that no historical work, treating in whole or in part of Virginia history, that has appeared within the last fifty years, fails to quote and make generous use of the material made accessible to students solely through the publications of the Society.

Your Committee has requested one of its members to write a detailed history of the Society and this gentleman has consented to do so.

During the current year, the work of the Magazine has related largely to a subject, which the historians of the colony have either ignored through lack of precise data, or at best barely touched upon, yet a matter of prime importance—namely, the

persistent determination of the colonists to extend their Western frontier despite the measures taken by the home government to restrict expansion in that direction.

The "Proceedings of the Virginia Committee of Correspondence," completed during the year, deals at considerable length and in most interesting fashion with these strenuous efforts made by the colonists during 1769-71, to push their boundaries to the Southwest and to confirm that extension by permanent settlements.

The completion during the year of the "Diaries of the Moravian Missionaries," describing the ministerial visits of these godly men through the western portion of Virginia from 1747 to 1753, demands renewed expression of high commendation for the erudite labors of Rev. W. J. Hinke, of Philadelphia, and Charles E. Kemper, Esq., of Washington, D. C., who, in conjunction, translated these "Diaries" from the German originals at Bethlehem, Pa.

Admirably translated and annotated with scholarly precision, these "Diaries," the earliest contemporary records of travel through the Valley region, not only emphasize the great importance of the German element in the settlement of Virginia, but constitute a veritable mine of information for all students of the early history of our Western border.

In the April (1905) number of the Magazine began the publication of every entry in the "Council Journals, 1721-34" referring to the Western portion of the colony and to colonial relations with the Indians.

These extracts are edited by Charles E. Kemper, Esq., with a wealth of intimate local knowledge and an enthusiasm for his subject, which could only be found in one born and bred "a Virginian of the Valley."

These entries will, it is expected, be concluded in the April number for 1906, and, when finished, must prove the definitive foundation for any full and accurate history of that great section of the Commonwealth.

We have also published a series of papers, copied from the originals in the British Public Records Office, dealing with the relations between Virginia and the Cherokees in 1769, together with the very interesting Journal of the "Virginia Commission-

ers," who represented the colony in the preliminary negotiations with the Six Nations and in the resulting treaty made with them at Logg's Town in 1752.

In our forthcoming January number, will be concluded the translation of the "Vestry-Book of King William Parish" (the Huguenot settlement on the James), 1709-1750.

Admirably translated from the quaint French of the time and annotated with apposite learning by Prof. R. H. Fife, of Wesleyan University, Connecticut, a member of the Society, this Vestry-Book will be carefully indexed by the accomplished translator and issued by the Society during the coming year in an edition limited to 200 copies.

Lothrop Withington, Esq., of London, to whom the Society already owes a heavy debt of gratitude for repeated services, has continued his very valuable "Gleanings" from English wills, derived from his own personal investigations and those of Henry F. Waters, Esq., of Boston, Mass.

These abstracts of such wills as in any way refer to Virginia and Virginia colonists, have already afforded a notable fund of precise information touching the social condition of the early settlers and regarding the localities in the "old country" from which they emigrated, and are of prime importance, not merely to the trained genealogist, but to the social and economic historian as well.

Even the general reader may gather some suggestive results from a casual perusal of them. Taking at random a hundred individuals, whose British homes are given as well as the social class to which they or their kinsmen belonged, we find, of this number 44 Londoners, 1 Scotchman, 4 Irishmen, while the remaining 51 are from 26 different towns and counties in England.

As regards social status, we find one of noble birth, 22 belonging to the gentry, 10 clergymen, 10 merchants, 29 divided among various business avocations and handicrafts, and the remaining 28 undistinguishable.

It is not, of course, to be understood that this proportion will hold good for the whole body of Virginia colonists, for, apart from the fact that more wills of Londoners are recorded in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (the chief source of these "Gleanings") than are likely to be found elsewhere, it must be

borne in mind that the poorer classes made no wills, and that naturally the names of small yeoman, mechanics, laborers and servants are not to be found among probate records.

There has been much other matter of substantial value and interest published in the Magazine—notably the “Legislative Papers,” of which two instalments were printed during the year. These papers consist of documents of all sorts—letters, petitions, reports and intercepted communications, which were sent directly to the Virginia legislature, or communicated to that body by the Governor,

We have caused careful copies to be made from the originals in the State Archives, containing a great amount of valuable matter for the years 1774–1776 (inclusive), and propose to continue the series throughout the coming year.

The mention of the State Archives makes this an opportune place to acknowledge the unvarying courtesy and consideration shown to the officers of the Society and especially to our copyist by the State Librarian, John P. Kennedy, Esq., and his staff.

Another important publication projected for 1906 is the printing in full in the Magazine of the “Journals of the Executive Council of Virginia,” covering (though not completely) the period from 1738 to 1763. The only remaining records of these sessions of the Council (as Executive) originally consisted of a number of small volumes, in sheets and unbound, but which were finally bound up at some indeterminate period since the Revolution in several large volumes, not observing, however, the proper sequence, and, through carelessness or ignorance on the part of their custodians, including papers dealing with extraneous subjects.

Some of these “Journals” are only rough drafts of minutes with omissions, while others are full and fair records of the proceedings of the Council.

Accurate copies have been made of all these, and the transcripts, arranged in chronological sequence, will be published in full.

The chief significance of the earliest of these is that they constitute a continuation of the history of the Westward extension of the colony, taking up the subject, after a gap of four years, where the series of extracts, now being published, leaves it off

Later on, they deal with the war between England and Spain and the part taken by Virginia in the expedition under Vernon against Carthagena—then with what used to be styled “King George’s War,” followed by the minutes relating to the “French and Indian War.”

As will be seen from this brief *résumé*, these “Journals” cover a very important period in our history, yet they have never been published. They will, of course, be carefully annotated and edited. Charles E. Kemper, Esq., having kindly consented to elucidate by notes all references to the Western border and to the Indians.

A long and important article in the January (1906) number of the Magazine will be practically unpublished matter, though, in fact, a reprint of a very rare pamphlet belonging to the Society’s collections.

This pamphlet, printed at Williamsburg by order of Governor Dinwiddie, gives a very full account (including instructions, letters, journals and treaty-texts) of the treaties made between the colony and the Catawbas and Cherokees in 1756, the object of that treaty being, of course, to secure to the colonists the aid of these tribes against the French and their Indian allies. The extreme rarity and importance of the pamphlet have seemed to the “Publication Committee” to justify its being reprinted.

Of other original matter of importance awaiting publication in due time in the Magazine, mention may be made of the following : (1) Abstracts and copies of records relating to Virginia, made from the originals in the British Public Records Office ; (2) the “Randolph MSS,” containing most valuable 17th century material ; (3) copies of early Virginia records from the originals in the Congressional Library ; (4) a collection of proclamations of the later colonial Governors, transcribed from the State Archives ; (5) the Corbin, Ludwell, Campbell, Massie and Lee MSS., all belonging to the Society’s collections.

Still another set of documents, that will appeal to patriotic interest everywhere, is a series of small MS. volumes containing brigade and regimental orders issued to the main army under Washington at Valley Forge and elsewhere during the campaigns of 1778 and 1779. These order-books, which were given to the Society many years ago by the heirs of Col. Charles

Dabney of the Virginia Line, and which afford a vivid and, at times, a somewhat startling picture of the life of the Revolutionary soldier, and of the discipline or, rather, lack of discipline, prevailing at the time in the Continental army, we propose to begin publishing during the coming year.

The few students who have given them close examination are unanimous in pronouncing them of the highest historical pith and interest.

DEATHS.

The following members have died during the past year (1905):

LIFE MEMBERS.

HON'L BENJAMIN BLAKE' MINOR, L. L. D., of Richmond, Va.
ROBERT C. WINTHROP, JR., of Boston, Mass.

ANNUAL MEMBERS.

R. H. CUNNINGHAM, Henderson, Kentucky.
G. F. EDWARDS, Portsmouth, Virginia.
MAJOR-GENERAL FITZHUGH LEE, Norfolk, Virginia.
MRS. THOS. L. MOORE, Richmond, Virginia.
MAJOR E. T. D. MYERS, Richmond, Virginia.
J. A. PATTESON, New York City.
W. B. SAUNDERS, Philadelphia, Penn.
PROF. CHARLES W. SHIELDS, Princeton University, N. J.
ALEXANDER TUNSTALL, M. D., Norfolk, Virginia.

In the death of the Honorable Benj. Blake Minor, we mourn the loss of the last survivor of the devoted little band of scholars and antiquarians, who in 1847 re-organized this Society, then in a moribund condition, and who by unremitting zeal and energy restored it to its former high position among kindred associations.

Sprung of a long line of colonial and Revolutionary patriots, his loyalty to his state was marked by that note of personal devotion that characterized the men and women of Virginia of his generation.

Educated in chief measure at the University of Virginia, where he graduated in a number of "schools," and at William

and Mary College, where, before he was of age, he took his degree in law under Judge Beverly Tucker, he begun in 1840 the practice of law. But his love of letters was greater than that for the "jealous mistress" he had chosen, and in 1843 he purchased *The Southern Literary Messenger*, which he edited for more than four years. This responsible position he finally relinquished for educational work, in which he had become greatly interested and, after filling various positions in that field, was elected in 1860 President of the University of Missouri. There his tenure of office was brief, the Federal military authorities closing that institution in March, 1862, because of the pronounced "Southern Sympathies" of the President and Faculty.

Again Prof. Minor went back to school work, meanwhile a chieftain marked success throughout the South and West as a popular lecturer on scientific and Biblical subjects.

While practicing law, Prof. Minor edited a new and complete edition of the Reports of Chancellor George Wythe (prefixing to it a memoir of that illustrious jurist), and, later on, brought out a new edition of Hening and Munford's Reports of the Decisions of the Supreme Court of Virginia.

His contributions to magazines and to the daily and weekly press are too numerous for detailed notice here.

Suffice it to say, in passing, that, possessed of an easy and graceful style and endowed with a retentive memory, that made instantly available a great wealth of reminiscences of the famous men of his earlier days, he contributed many articles of notable interest to various periodicals.

Happily, he lived to see the appearance in book form of the darling of his old age—a history of *The Southern Literary Messenger*, 1834–1864, which forms a valuable commentary touching the contributors and contributions to that famous old periodical. His face and figure were long familiar on our streets, and many of us shall miss his cheery bearing and alacrity of movement, which were so conspicuous even after he had passed the span allotted by the Psalmist.

To the last, his was an optimism that no vicissitudes of fortune had been able to break, and though by reason of strength his days were fourscore, their strength was yet not labor and

sorrow, but rather a placid, yet very real, interest in the affairs of life, and a serene enjoyment of what Cicero terms the "pleasures of old age."

He died in this city on the 1st day of August, 1905, mourned by a large circle of friends and kindred.

By order of the President, a beautiful wreath was placed upon his coffin in the name of the Society, and the Executive Committee attended his funeral in a body.

The death of Robert C. Winthrop, Jr., of Boston, snaps yet another of the many ties that bind the two great Commonwealths of Massachusetts and Virginia.

Inheriting his distinguished father's affection and admiration for the Old Dominion, and nourished in the best traditions of the early days of the Republic, he was ever a staunch friend of the Society, and always evinced the liveliest interest in its purposes to perpetuate the names and virtues of the great Virginians, who bore so great a part in founding the new nation, and in shaping its destinies,

In the hearts of resident members of the Society, grief is still fresh and poignant for the loss of two of our most distinguished fellow-members—one, Major Edmund T. D. Myers, a man of acute intellect, large acquirement and varied learning, whose high civic virtues, spotless integrity and scrupulous administration of the great trusts confided to him, commanded the admiration and confidence of the general public, while his many accomplishments, ready wit and kindly sympathies claimed the affection and regard of all who enjoyed the privilege of his personal friendship. The other, Major-General Fitzhugh Lee, was in every relation of life, public and private, worthy of the noble stock from which he sprung. Whether in field or forum, whether as the dashing *beau sabreur* of the thrice glorious "Army of Northern Virginia," or as Governor of this Commonwealth, he ever "stood four square to all the winds that blew," and, having endeared himself to North and South alike by his splendid courage, decisive vigor and lovable personality, died at last mourned by a nation.

Though trained to the profession of arms, and by instinct and tradition a soldier first of all, to whom the *gaudium certaminis* seemed the very breath of life, yet when peace came and grave

civic trusts were confided to him, first by his mother-state as her Chief Executive, and later on by a re-united country as her diplomatic representative, he proved himself a sagacious and well-poised statesman, who knew how to keep himself well in hand, and in most critical events, bore himself with equable prudence and serene dignity. His wit was keen and the lambent play of his humor illumined all that it touched, yet even when he was in the most exuberant spirits, one marked the saving grace of underlying common-sense, which was indeed the dominant note in his character, and which enabled him to penetrate intuitively to the very core of the most perplexing problems.

To the general public throughout the whole country, he became a popular hero—to his friends and to the men who followed him through the dust and sweat of battle, he was always simply "dear old Fitz."

These simple words tell the whole story of his brilliant valor, his soldierly frankness, his generosity, simplicity and winning *camaraderie*.

Those who witnessed the imposing pageant of his obsequies here in Richmond and who saw through misty eyes scores upon scores of bronzed and bearded veterans shaken with a passion of sobs, as they followed all that was mortal of their old leader to his last resting-place, could not doubt that a man who could compel such passionate grief, had knit these men to him by ties as beautiful and tender as they were stern and heroic.

He came of a great race, the very pride and glory of our "Old Dominion" from Colonial days, a race that found its consummate flower in the foremost captain of our time, and it is his noblest epitaph to say simply and soberly that he wore worthily, and shed no mean lustre on, the historic name he bore.

MISCELLANEOUS.

At the October meeting of the Executive Committee, Mr. Edward V. Valentine introduced a proposition to encourage the study of our county history and the investigation of county records, with a view to securing accurate *data*, that would serve for a series of county histories, which, all agree, are greatly needed. The matter was discussed at length and favorably,

the Committee deeming it probable that, if an annual prize of money were offered for monographs treating of county history, or some great event in county history, based in chief measure on original investigations of county records, the desired result would be attained.

Messrs. Valentine, McCabe, and James having offered to furnish the necessary funds to test the experiment for the first three years, a resolution was offered and unanimously adopted, establishing such annual prize in the Society's name, to be open to the competition of all students of Universities and Colleges in Virginia, and to be awarded only for original work based on direct investigation of county records,

At the November meeting of the Committee, a sub-committee was appointed consisting of Messrs. Valentine, McCabe, Mitchell and James, with instructions to formulate details of the scheme, and to report back to the full Committee.

The limits of this Annual Report preclude anything but the barest mention of the actual and prospective improvements at Jamestown.

The great work that has engaged our sister society, "The Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities," has been accomplished. The sea-wall, designed to protect that historic site from the ravages of encroaching tides, and constructed under the supervision of our colleague on the Committee, Samuel H. Yonge, Esq., U. S. Engineer in charge, has been practically finished, and will long remain an enduring monument to the devoted patriotism of these Virginia women.

Plans have been perfected for a building to be erected by the "National Society of Colonial Dames." It will be a reproduction, as nearly as possible, of the old church, whose ruined foundations have been uncovered by the excavations of recent years. These ruins will not be disturbed, but will be enclosed within the walls of the new structure. The floor of the new building is to consist of a granolithic pavement, and an iron railing, running around and inside the old foundations, will amply protect them. The "National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution" has also made an appropriation for a building, which will probably be a reproduction of Raleigh's birth-place, Hayes-Barton in Devon, than which no more appro-

priate model could be found. The building is to be at once a monument to the first permanent settlement in America and to the father of English colonization in the New World.

The government of the United States has also appropriated \$50,000 for a monument to be erected somewhere on the island, but no site has as yet been chosen and no plans formulated.

Plans are now under discussion for a monument to Pocahontas, the witchery of whose romantic devotion still casts its magic spell over gentle and simple alike, while the Episcopal "Diocese of Southern Virginia" proposes to erect, prior to the Ter-centennial, a fitting memorial to the Rev. Robert Hunt, the first clergyman who ministered to the original settlers.

By a wise amendment to the constitution of our Society, passed a few years ago, the President of the Society having served three consecutive terms of one year each, is not eligible to re-election until after an interim.

Your retiring President, deeply sensible of the great honor thrice accorded him by your generous partiality, now desires to tender his most grateful acknowledgments to the officers of the Society, to his faithful colleagues of the Executive Committee, and to his fellow-members in general for the loyal and generous support they have given him during his whole tenure of office.

He will ever count it the chief honor of his life that he has been thus long the executive head of a Society, that has done so much to perpetuate the glories of our mother state, and that from the time of John Marshall, its first President, down through more than seventy years, has borne upon its rolls the names of so many illustrious "Virginia Worthies."

All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. GORDON MCCABE,
President.

On the conclusion of the report, which was received with applause, President McCabe introduced Professor William Peterfield Trent, of Columbia University, who was to deliver the annual address.

Professor Trent's address was on "History as Literature—a plea for its more attractive presentation." It was a very valuable and scholarly paper, and was heard with great interest.

At the conclusion of Professor Trent's address a vote of thanks was tendered to him by the Society.

The President then called for the report of the Nominating Committee, and Mr. Robert B. Munford Jr., Chairman of that Committee, made the following report:

REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen :

Your committee being regretfully reminded that the present President of the Society, who has so ably directed its affairs for the past three years, is not eligible under the Constitution, for re-election at this meeting, we take pleasure in nominating as his successor Mr. Joseph Bryan, who has heretofore filled this office with signal success.

The complete list of nominations submitted for such action as you may deem proper is as follows :

President—Joseph Bryan.

Vice-Presidents—Archer Anderson, Edward V. Valentine, Lyon G. Tyler.

Corresponding Secretary and Librarian—William G. Stanard.

Recording Secretary—David C. Richardson.

Treasurer—Robert T. Brooke.

Executive Committee—W. Gordon McCabe, C. V. Meredith, B. B. Munford, Edward W. James, Chas. W. Kent, W. Meade Clark, A. C. Gordon, S. S. P. Patteson, S. C. Mitchell, J. P. McGuire, S. H. Yonge, W. J. Leake.

The officers nominated were unanimously elected.

It was moved that the President vacate the chair, which was then occupied by Mr. D. C. Richardson.

A motion was made, which was adopted by unanimous vote, thanking the retiring President for the zeal and ability with which he had filled his office for the past three years.

The President resuming the chair made his acknowledgement in a few graceful words for the vote of thanks.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

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JANUARY, 1906.

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*and ex-officio, the President, Vice-Presidents, Secretaries,
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